GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4700
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2000
FIELD TRIALS OF TRANSGENIC COTTON
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to permit large scale fields Trials of Transgenic Cotton; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a)&(b) The Government has permitted M/s Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company(MAHYCO) to undertake field trials and generate environmental safety data on transgenic cotton in various agro-climatic regions of the country. The firm has been permitted to undertake large-scale field trials only in 85 hectares of land and seed production in 150 hectares, however, seeds so produced shall not be used for commercial sale. Field trials on transgenic crops have already been conducted in 45 countries. Transgenic cotton has already been commercialised in countries like USA, China, Australia, South Africa and Argentina. However, it has been felt that new technology can be allowed only after bio-safety and environmental issues are fully addressed. Important traits for which the crops have been genetically manipulated are herbicide tolerance, insect resistance, product quality and viral resistance besides fungal and agronomic priorities.